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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY      Poland

SUBJECT      Economic - Regained Territories

DATE OF  
INFORMATION      1950

HOW  
PUBLISHED      Thrice-weekly newspaper

DATE DIST. 19 Sep 1950

WHERE  
PUBLISHED      Mannheim

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE  
PUBLISHED      19 May 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE      Polish

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SOURCE      Ostatnie Wiadomosci.

DESCRIBE CONDITIONS IN REGAINED TERRITORIES

Die Welt in Hamburg published a series of eight articles based on inter-views with German expellees from Poland and the Regained Territories describ-ing the conditions prevailing there.

The transportation system in Wroclaw which was 80 percent destroyed by the war has been completely restored. There are water and gas facilities. The streets are illuminated. The FAMO factory has reached its prewar production of 6,500 cars. In addition to a number of minor plants, Wroclaw has a chemical factory, an electrotechnical plant, and a plant producing superphosphates.

Opole has lost completely its former German character and appearance. Some settlers have received as much as 25 hectares of land and the necessary live-stock. Long stretches of land, however, especially far from the main transpor-tation centers, are untilled. Unable to find jobs, many white-collar workers earn a living as metal or mine workers. Their average monthly salary is 7,500 zlotys. Polish piece workers make an average of 15,000 zlotys monthly, a govern-ment employee in smaller towns 3-4,000 zlotys. The purchasing power of the zloty is very low. For instance, a pair of shoes cost 5-7,000 zloty, a kilogram of butter 600 zlotys, a kilogram of meat 200-300 zlotys, etc.

Since uranium has been discovered in the vicinity of Jelenia Gora, the entire area is buzzing with activity. Trees are cut down in the Gory Olbrzymie mountains to build mining installations. The entire area is full of police agents and spies. Transports of workers arrive continuously.

The cities of Zgorzelec and Frankfurt an der Oder are separated by the border. They are half deserted. There are apartments which have remained vac-ant since the German evacuation in 1945.

Poznan is the only city in Poland which has still a sizeable middle class. However, the attacks of the Communist Party against the Catholic Church presage an all-out blow against the middle class of this city and area.

The Polish settlers in Pomorze are not able to handle the 10,000 trac-tors donated by UNRRA because they are only familiar with one-cylinder Diesel tractors. Tractors are piling up in the machine centers for repairs. There is

- 1 -

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a general shortage of skilled mechanics. Many villages are deserted. Only peasants who are members of the Communist Party receive horses. The few remaining Germans have to work hard to earn a living.

The authorities concentrate their Polonization efforts on Starogard, Slupsk, and Kolobrzeg. New houses are being built there and industries are being set up.

Most fishing settlements along the coast are deserted. Swinoujscie is the only exception. This important fishing center is a Russian naval base. Many Soviet officers and soldiers live in the residential section. About 2,000 Germans work there for the Soviet Navy. The entire area is under close watch, since many Poles have escaped from there to Denmark and Sweden.

The southern part of east Prussia cannot feed even one-tenth of its pre-war population.

Olsztyn, a wojewodztwo capital, is mostly in ruins. In the midst of primitive and improvised dwellings are government buildings. Settlers are being brought from Poland to populate the area and remove German irredentist claims.

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- 2 -

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